

TWO PANAMA CANAL BILLS.

LEGISLATION NECESSARY TO CARRY TREATY INTO EFFECT.

Bill Prepared Authorizing the Payment of the \$10,000,000 to Panama—Also a Bill for Government of Canal Zone, Which Will Come Under Our Control.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—After a conference between the Senate leaders and the Administration it has been decided that further legislation is necessary to carry into effect the canal treaty, which is to be ratified next Tuesday, and to provide for digging the great waterway. First will come a bill or joint resolution authorizing the payment to the Republic of Panama of the \$10,000,000 which, under the terms of the treaty, that republic is to receive for the cession of the canal right of way.

The so-called Spooner act named Colombia as the country which was to receive this sum, and many of the best lawyers of the Senate contend that the treaty on law the authority to purchase certain specified property is the important part of the transaction, and that, although the property may have changed hands, the authority to buy it still remains, and payment may legally be made to the new owner. Another contention is that as a treaty overrides a law, the effect of the new treaty with Panama is to supersede that portion of the Spooner act which names Colombia as the country which the treaty is to be conducted, and to which the payments are to be made. In order to clear up any doubt whatever, it has been decided to pass a bill giving specific authority for making the payment to Panama. A provision will also be made in the bill for the issue of the bonds for the construction of the canal.

This bill is to be introduced in the House immediately after the vote on the treaty in the Senate next Tuesday and is not expected to give rise to much debate, as the treaty by that time will have been ratified and the ratifications themselves, perhaps, exchanged with the new constitutional Government of Panama.

The second bill of even more importance than the first, the so-called canal strip across the Isthmus will come under the jurisdiction of the United States as soon as the necessary formalities have been observed, and some laws will be passed at once to preserve order there. Military rule is undesirable and unpopular, and there will not, as in the case of Porto Rico and the Philippines, be the excuse that it is a conquered territory. On the other hand, the laws of the United States are hardly applicable to that country, owing to the difference in racial conditions.

It is proposed, therefore, to create a commission, separate and distinct from the Panama Canal Commission proper, for the purpose of carrying out a code of laws to be enacted by Congress especially for the government of the canal zone, or, if that is not practicable, to give the commission power to make laws, subject to the approval of Congress. Just which course to pursue has not yet been decided, but the bill now in course of preparation was the subject of an extended conference at the White House last night, and also at the Capitol today.

The urgent need for immediate legislation, however, is apparent, as the territory will soon be turned over to the United States, and after the act of constructing the canal is under way it will have a population of perhaps 20,000 people.

The bill will also provide ample authority for carrying into effect the sanitary regulations which will be needed on the Isthmus, and the desirability of its enactment before the beginning of the next session is pointed out as another reason for haste in passing it. The enforcement of the sanitary regulations will probably be placed under the control of the same commission. Legislation also will be necessary for the appointment of the American members of the joint commission to appraise the property within the canal zone which belongs to private parties, providing regulations under which the commission may work and prescribing the manner of payment of its awards. The duties, pay, etc. of the Panama commission proper will be set forth in one of the measures to be passed.

Altogether it is quite apparent that Congress, if it adjourns about the first of May as planned by the leaders, will find its time pretty fully occupied with Panama Canal legislation and the regular appropriation bills.

CANAL TREATY IN THE SENATE.

Mr. Spooner Speaks for It, and Mr. Morgan Calls for More Information.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Mr. Spooner (Rep., Wis.) made a speech to-day in the Senate on the Panama Canal resolution. He deprecated the attacks on the President in the Panama business, and cited the heated and even brutal criticism of Lincoln and McKinley during the times those Presidents were doing their duty. History now recorded only wonder that such criticism should have been uttered. He then reviewed the history of canal legislation.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. Morgan (Dem., Ala.), was agreed to:

Resolved, That the President is requested, if not impracticable, to cause to be sent to the Senate such information as is in his possession of the Government of the United States as to the progress of the canal project, and a copy of the Constitution of said republic, and such other information as to the provisions thereof, as may have been received by him, and that the Senate be kept advised as to any ordinance, or other proceeding of the constitutional convention, recently in session, and any other information relating to the Hay-Varela treaty now pending in the Senate.

The Senate went into executive session, and shortly afterward adjourned until Saturday, to-morrow being the date of the late Senator Hanna's funeral.

Minister Buchanan's Resignation Accepted.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—President Roosevelt has accepted the resignation of W. I. Buchanan of New York, as Minister to the Republic of Panama. No selection of his successor has been made.

INCREASE OF MEDICAL CORPS.

Secretary Taft Practically Takes Sides Against the General Staff.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Secretary Taft to-day adopted a compromise measure providing for the increase of the medical corps of the army. Surgeon-General O'Reilly asked that the corps be increased to 20 Colonels, 20 Lieutenant-Colonels, 110 Majors and 300 Captains and Lieutenants. The General Staff reduced this in their recommendation to 12 Colonels, 18 Lieutenant-Colonels, 120 Majors and 300 Captains and Lieutenants.

In reaching a conclusion Secretary Taft remarks that the argument advanced by the Surgeon-General for the larger increase was stronger than the argument against it by the General Staff. He therefore decides to recommend to Congress an increase to 16 Colonels, 24 Lieutenant-Colonels, 110 Majors and 300 Captains and Lieutenants.

Taft Will Adopt Root's Plans for Army Reorganization.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—It was authoritatively announced to-day at the War Department that Secretary Taft will follow without deviation Secretary Root's plans for the reorganization of the army. As the opportunity of a Congress adjourns, steps to secure the consolidation of departments desired by Secretary Root.

A part of the scheme was to consolidate some of the work of the Adjutant-General's office with the record and pension office, which was done, and a bill providing for a further consolidation is now before Congress.

FAVORABLE REPORT ON CRUM.

Senate Committee Recommends That His Nomination Be Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The Senate Committee on Commerce made a favorable report to-day on the nomination of William D. Crum, a negro, to be Collector of Customs at Charleston, S. C. The nomination has been pending for more than a year, but no action has been taken by the Senate further than placing it upon the calendar.

The vote of the committee to-day was divided on party lines, Republican Senators voting for favorable action and Democratic Senators opposing the nomination. It stood 8 to 5, with two Republicans and one Democrat absent, and one vacancy, caused by the death of Senator Hanna.

HEARINGS ON 8 HOUR BILL.

Its Opponents Argue That It Would Increase Price of Government Work.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Hearings on the eight hour labor bill were continued to-day before the House Committee on Labor.

E. F. Debrul of Cincinnati, representing the Metal Trades Association in particular, and a number of other organizations in general, told the committee that if such a bill became a law a large majority of the contractors belonging to the association he represented would decline to bid on Government work. The nature and consequences of such legislation would be that prices for Government work would be increased. Competition would be lessened by means of the contractors refusing to bid, and, as those who did bid would have to reorganize their works to handle Government contracts and go on an eight hour basis, they would make the Government pay for it.

The witness pointed out the results which had attended experiments by the Government in this direction. A ship was now being constructed in the Brooklyn navy yard, he said, which would cost much more than a ship, which was being built at Newport News, because the former was being constructed under an eight hour day, and the latter under a ten hour day. He protested against the enactment of the bill, which would deprive a man from working as long as he pleased. He thought that was a matter which should be left to the discretion of the adult male.

R. L. Lortie, representing the United States of Newark, N. J., and the New York Manufacturing Jewellers' Association, said that while the bill did not directly affect his trade, it would indirectly, as it would tend to make an eight hour day universal. This would increase the price of jewelry and limit the output, to the detriment of the jewelry trade.

He was opposed to any bill limiting the right of contract between employers and employees.

John H. Hartshorn of Newark opposed the bill as an employer in and behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Next Thursday a delegation from the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers will be heard against the bill.

IMPORT AND EXPORT RATES.

Commerce Commission Decides That the Law Requires Carriers to Publish Them.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The Interstate Commerce Commission to-day, in an opinion by Commissioner Prouty, announced its decision in the proceeding entitled "In the matter of the publication and filing of tariffs of import and export traffic." After fully discussing the subject in a report and opinion of some length, the commission announces its conclusion as follows:

First.—That the act now requires the publication of import and export tariffs in the same manner as domestic tariffs.

Second.—That public policy urgently requires that the inland transportation of import and export commerce should be subject to the same regulations as domestic traffic, and that the publishing and maintaining of tariffs upon the coastwise trade should be subject to the same regulations as inland traffic.

Third.—That the publication of tariffs is a public duty, and that the failure to publish them is a violation of the law, and that the commission has no power to modify its requirements.

Fourth.—That the act is to any extent relieved from giving the notices now required by the act in the interest of the carrier, and that the commission should in all cases file with the commission the rates actually in force, and that they were given notice to the public as may be possible.

Upon the whole, we are inclined to leave this matter as it is, and to use the existing law, and to advise, present this subject to the Congress, and to advise, in the meantime all carriers which do not publish and maintain import and export tariffs, and which do not file them with the commission as required by the act, to do so as soon as possible.

TO CREATE TWO NEW STATES.

One of Oklahoma and Indian Territory, the Other of Arizona and New Mexico.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The House Committee on Territories will to-morrow and its hearings on the several Territorial bills, and its conclusions have already been practically reached: It is understood that the bill to reorganize the Territory of Oklahoma, and to provide for the admission of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as one State under the name of Oklahoma, but not until after the work of allotting the Indian lands has been completed by the Dawes commission, which will be finished, it is expected, inside of two years. The bill will provide for an equitable distribution of the school lands of the two Territories.

The State thus created "will have a population estimated at nearly 80,000, and will be entitled to four Representatives and two Senators. It is conceded by the Republican leaders that the State will be Democratic at the outset, with two Democratic Senators and at least three, if not four, Democratic Representatives. The estimate now is that the State would be Democratic by at least 30,000, on account of the overwhelming Democratic sentiment in Indian Territory, whose population is made up largely of settlers from Texas and Arkansas. It is planned that the bill shall pass the House at this session.

Later in the session a bill will be reported uniting New Mexico and Arizona and providing for their admission as one State, which will be Republican and thus offset the Democratic advantage in Oklahoma, at least so far as the Senate is concerned, and elect two Republican Congressmen.

Bills Introduced in the House.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Among the bills introduced in the House to-day were the following:

By Mr. Sherman (Rep., N. Y.)—To appropriate \$50,000 for the construction of a lighthouse and for signal one mile from the eastern shore of Long Island Sound.

By Mr. Dick (Rep., Ohio)—To appropriate \$50,000 for transportation, pay and expenses of certain naval vessels.

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COLOMBIAN BOOK ACCUSING US

Got Out by Gen. Ospina, Fellow Envoy of Reyes.

Circulated by the Republic's Consul-General Here, Among Her Consuls in Europe.

The Panama Canal Question: A Plea for Colombia, consisting chiefly of letters accusing the United States of bad faith and of violation of the new Granada treaty, are being distributed by Señor Brigard, the Colombian Consul-General here, among the Colombian Consuls in Europe in quantities of from 10 to 500.

Although the name of the author and editor is not given, Señor Brigard said yesterday that he is Gen. Pedro Nel Ospina, who was an associate of Gen. Reyes, President of Colombia, and the Colombian commission to Washington.

The principal attack on the United States is made in a letter by Abelardo Aldana, Colombian Consul at Cardiff. A chapter is devoted, however, to the communications which passed between Minister Beaupré and Luis Carlos Roco, Minister of Foreign Affairs at Bogota, and then follows an explanation for the rejection of the Panama Canal treaty by the Colombian Senate, in which appears this paragraph:

"The terms of the treaty affected Colombia's rights and status, and the fact that the entire nation rose as one person to protest against this dangerous instrument, and that the Government of Colombia, for the sake of its integrity and the independence of its country, refused to accept it."

Under the heading, "Logic of the Message," referring to the special message of President Roosevelt on the Panama affair, the volume says:

"The President also disclaims all connivance or collusion with the handful of speculators who engineered the canal project, and bought up the offer in command of the barracks, and denies all fore knowledge of the transaction, and that the Government of Colombia, for the sake of its integrity and the independence of its country, refused to accept it."

"Columbia is willing, nay, anxious to do all in her power to reach a peaceful and honorable settlement of the canal question, and is of the expressions used in the chapter, 'The Path of Justice.'"

Gen. Ospina personally contributes an article entitled, "Colombia Guiltless of Extortion," which is a defense against those charges. The rest of the publication is devoted to English opinions. "President Roosevelt's policy is to establish a diplomatic note which passed between Secretary Hay and the Special Envoy of Colombia to this country."

It was yesterday that before sailing for Europe, Gen. Reyes gave the instructions under which Dr. Tomas Herran, Colombian Chargé d'Affaires, at Washington, is now closing the legation there.

FORTIFICATIONS BILL PASSED.

Democrats Object to Fortifying the Philippines—Vote of 164 Tells a Story.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The House to-day passed the Fortifications Appropriation bill, the discussion of which occupied the entire day. An unsuccessful effort was made by the minority, on motion of Mr. Smith (Dem., Ky.), to strike out the section empowering the Secretary of War to acquire land to be used as a site for coast defenses in the Philippines.

Mr. Williams (Dem., Miss.) wanted the party in power to state whether the United States intended to hold the islands in perpetuity. The question, he said, the Republicans had never asked, and he opposed to holding the islands forever, and hence opposed to expending money to fortify them. If the United States undertook to fortify properly the islands with their extensive coast lines, he said, it would cost more than to fortify the entire coast line of the United States.

Mr. Payne (Rep., N. Y.) and Mr. Smith (Rep., Ia.) declared that even if the United States at some time relinquish title to the Philippines, the United States would insist upon having a naval station there, and consequently the money expended for fortifications now would not be wasted.

The amendment to strike out the provision was lost, 162 to 89, a strict party vote.

Mr. Wade (Dem., Ia.) made a tariff speech. He said that if Chamberlain succeeded in having his policy adopted by Great Britain the result would be disastrous to our agricultural interests and that within five years wheat and corn would be raised in the granaries. Discussing the high price of beef, Mr. Wade told a story which greatly amused the House.

He had a friend who entered a Chicago restaurant and ordered a beefsteak.

"Wide or without onions," asked the Irish waiter.

"No onions, please," said the hungry man.

"I'm going to the theatre to-night with some ladies and I don't want my breath flowing from the mouth of a pig."

"That's all right," said the obliging waiter. "When I brings youse the bill for the steak that'll take your breath away."

Several unsuccessful efforts were made to amend the bill, but it was not changed in any material particular. It was then passed.

A bill was also passed making Utica, N. Y., a port of delivery.

Mr. Hill (Rep., Conn.) made a political speech, attacking the Democratic party for its position on public questions.

He quoted Mr. Williams, the minority leader, as saying silver had been relegated to the rear of the Democratic platform, and that the Kansas City platform was endorsed. He asked the Democrats which they were going to accept.

AN APPEAL FROM MANILA.

Cigarmakers Urge Free Entry into This Country of Their Product.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Secretary Taft has received a cablegram from Pardo de Tavera of Manila, as follows:

An urgent request to forward the following telegram signed by seven presidents of cigar makers in cigar factories, Manila, congratulating you on assuming new office, and asking you influential aid in urging legislation for the free importation of cigars into the United States of Philippine manufactured tobacco; only salvation this great industry has is in the free importation of cigars through the Philippine industry; appeal to Congress of the United States for free importation of cigars.

All I can say in furtherance of this petition will be in the view of the great importance of the subject matter.

Secretary Taft replied that he would do what he could to secure action by Congress.

Nominations by the President.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The President sent to the Senate to-day the following nominations:

To be member of the Philippine Commission and Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Police in the Government of the Philippine Islands, W. Cameron Forbes.

To be United States Consul, William Ross Davis of Ohio, at Martinique, West Indies.

To be a Lieutenant (Junior grade), Ensign James B. Jones, at Manila, Philippines.

To be Assistant Paymaster, Elijah H. Cope of Tennessee.

To be Assistant Paymaster, Charles F. Hopkins at Boston, and Andrew Merrett at Lond, N. J.

TEST OF CANON LAW.

Effort to Oust a Philadelphia Rector May Be Taken Into Court.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 18.—The vestrymen of St. Charles's Church have asked the Rev. Dr. C. Ellis Stevens, the rector, to resign. Dr. Stevens has won a reputation and there is no canon of the Church by which the vestrymen can make him. The vestrymen say they don't intend to submit to this, and there will probably be a legal battle of interest to every member of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

If the present plans of the vestrymen are carried out the legal status of the canons of the Church will be tested in court for the first time in the history of the Church in this country. The canon law can be sustained by a lower court it is hinted by the vestrymen that they will not rest until the Supreme Court of the country has ruled upon the question.

Dr. Stevens last evening issued a statement of his position:

"The Rev. Dr. Stevens has declined to be interviewed except to say that in the Episcopal Church a vestry has no canonical power over a rector, and that he is acting in accordance with competent advice and the wishes of his friends. He has received at this time the spontaneous and urgent request from the entire body of pew-holders, church workers and parishioners—with the exception of some of the vestrymen and their immediate friends—that he remain rector, and he will do so."

BALTIMORE'S NEW STREETS.

Objections Made to the Widening Scheme—Fire Losses Now Put at \$25,000,000.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 18.—City Collector Henry Williams is up in arms over the report of the emergency committee looking to the widening and beautifying of Baltimore streets. A sewerage system and the removal of cobblestones is what the collector insists upon, while any number of city solicitors protest against the plan. It is proposed, however, by the citizens' emergency committee to prepare an enabling act to be presented to the Legislature authorizing Baltimore city to make a loan of \$50,000, to be used in making the proposed improvements.

The Appeal Tax Court has completed an estimate of the buildings and stock lost in the burned district, which estimate was submitted to the commission on the financial affairs of the city. While the figures were not made public, it is understood that so far as the really concerned the loss is placed approximately at between \$20,000,000 and \$25,000,000. It is expected that the figures will be changed after a careful revision.

The important question of finding the money to carry out the suggestions regarding street improvements is being discussed by city officials. The city has a surplus of \$1,422,460.74. An act has been proposed by Major Venable authorizing this surplus to be used for the purpose of carrying out the suggestions of the city officials.

It was yesterday that before sailing for Europe, Gen. Reyes gave the instructions under which Dr. Tomas Herran, Colombian Chargé d'Affaires, at Washington, is now closing the legation there.

DARTMOUTH HALL BURNED.

One of the Oldest College Buildings of the Country Destroyed by Fire.

HANOVER, N. H., Feb. 18.—Dartmouth Hall, the oldest building of Dartmouth College, one of the oldest college buildings in the country, was burned to the ground this morning. The loss is about \$25,000, which is partly covered by insurance. The cause of the fire is not known. The flames started on the third floor of the building, which is of wood and three stories in height, and spread with great rapidity. The town has a good fire department, but the firemen were unable to save the building. The fire was caused by a gas stove in the kitchen, which was left unattended.

FIRE MAKES 40 HOMELESS.

Row of Jersey City Dwellings Frozen—Hydrants Cause Delay.

Fire swept through a row of two story frame houses in Jewett avenue, Jersey City, yesterday morning, gutting six and slightly damaging two more. Eight families, comprising forty persons, were made homeless. The loss is placed at \$20,000. The fire started on an overheated furnace in the cellar of John Frazer's home at 87 and spread rapidly. The fire was lost by hydrants and the fire got away from them. The fire was caused by a gas stove in the kitchen, which was left unattended.

BIG TENEMENT ABLAZE.

Fireman Carries Woman From Fire Escape—Cop Saves Two Others.

A fire in the five story double tenement at 754-56 Seventh avenue, yesterday morning caused a panic among the negro tenants and gave the firemen a chance to do some rescue work. Mrs. Howard White, who lives on the top floor, climbed out on the fire escape and was hanging to the railing, when fireman Michael Sullivan and Truck 4 caught her and carried her safely to the street. Her dress took fire, but the flames were extinguished by Sullivan, whose hair was singed and hands slightly burned.

Bert Lanthan and Maude Williams were overcome by smoke on the fourth floor and were found by Policeman Burthorn of the West Forty-seventh street station. He carried them to the street, where they were quickly revived. Falling bricks from a chimney in the rear struck Policeman Barron and he sustained a severe scalp wound.

FIRE IN FURNITURE STORE CELLAR.

A fire started in the basement of 5 East Fourteenth street shortly before 5 o'clock last night. The building is occupied by Hale & Kilburn, furniture dealers. The flames were started in the basement, where there were stored excelsior and other inflammable stuff. It attracted a large crowd of homegoers.

Receiver for a Chicago Elevator Company.

Chicago, Feb. 18.—The Chicago Railway Terminal Elevator Company of New York, which ten years ago issued bonds amounting to \$2,500,000, has been placed in charge of a receiver. Fred M. Blount was to-day appointed receiver for the company by Judge John C. Wood.

The receiver was appointed after a bill had been filed in the Supreme Court by John S. Goodwin asking that thirty-five holders of the company's bonds be appointed receivers.

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